

Merritt Reservoir, Branched Oak Reservoir in the Campground and Day Use Development, and Lake Minatare's Campgrounds. The loss of 5% general operating and maintenance funds in the last two fiscal years has been a detriment to our state park system. If we are going to have to go to more of our cash funds, we certainly need a \$10 permit. According to a Missouri Department of Natural Resources National Survey, nationwide the range for annual park permits was \$5-\$35 for 23 states with an average of \$14 in 58 states...\$14.58, so I don't think a \$10 permit fee is out of line, and as Senator Peterson mentioned, Colorado has \$20; Kansas, \$15; Utah has \$35; Indiana, \$12; Arizona, \$20; Texas, \$15; Idaho, \$15. In Colorado, they do have duplicate permits but they must be purchased at the Games and Parks Division. In Kansas only one duplicate is purchased and it must be purchased at the time of purchasing the original and their original permit is \$15. I urge the members of the Legislature to keep in mind that the Games and Parks do depend on their cash funds because 70% of their cash funds is used or 70% of their budget is used from cash funds, therefore, they do need the \$10 permit. Thank you very much.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Von Minden.

SENATOR VON MINDEN: Mr. Chairman, members of the body, I rise to oppose this amendment. That is a 50% raise. It amazes me. I stand here today and I listen to some of these Senators, I also heard when I first came down here about the dynasty that the Park Department has. I see it working here today. When I came down here a little over two years ago Senator Higgins and Senator Labedz and Senator Schmit, they were always for the poor and the elderly and I kind of admired them for that but here they are telling me the heck with the poor and the elderly who uses the parks, a 100% raise is not too much. Senator Higgins says we need to build more cabins. Well, if you need to build more cabins, then get it from the cabin users. Let me tell you what a cabin up in my park is, a beautiful brand new cabin, two bedroom, four people can sleep, linens and everything you want in it, \$24. Where can you go stay for \$24? Why take the \$10 out of some old person that wants to drive out in the parks in the evening and look at the trees and look at the river in my park. Why take it out of them? Take it out of the people who use the park. The campers use it, let them pay for it. Don't try to take it out of the poor people and the elderly who want to use the park for just a drive through it. Thank you.